

As a concerned citizen, I am appalled by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision ordering their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary only days before the election, without giving equal time to pro-Kerry or anti-Bush programming. This policy is a clear attempt by Sinclair Broadcasting to influence the Presidential election by manipulating the media to serve their own political agenda.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is legally required to serve the public interest, to provide equal time for opposing viewpoints. But when media consolidation allows large corporations, such as Sinclair Broadcasting, to control the airwaves, news and journalism become become distorted by corporate executives seeking only to serve shareholders and the bottom line, not the public.

Such practices are not only illegal, but do great harm to the public interest. Maintaining a strong and open democracy depends on the media presenting relevant, substantive, unbiased news and information, thus enabling the public to make informed decisions. This is achievable only when journalists allowed to pursue the story and information as they see fit, free from serving the corporate agenda and executive interests.

Sinclair's illegal actions show that media ownership rules need to be more restrictive, not less. In addition, they demonstrate why the license renewal process needs to include an investigation of the company's (or station's) adherence to the law, not just a returned application.

Please do everything you can to stop Sinclair Broadcasting's biased, illegal decision to influence the public and send a clear warning to others that such practices will not be tolerated.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,